AL-HASSAKEH: In June, approximately 1,700 people displaced from across Ar Raqqa governorate have taken shelter in Mabrouka Camp. Sector partners have been distributing relief items, erecting tents and continuing work to improve their living conditions. Tens of thousands of displaced people have been passing through Mabrouka Camp before moving on to other areas or returning to their places of origin.

KEY POINTS

- Sector partners continue to provide assistance to IDPs affected by the Ar Raqqa crisis. In June, most of the partners have distributed NFI kits along with hygiene and jerry cans in Ein Issa, Karama, Tabqa and Tell Abiad. Partner’s registration of IDPs for NFI distribution in villages in the northern part of Ar Raqqa is ongoing.

- The NFI post distribution monitoring among partners mostly by UNHCR is ongoing. In Tartous, beneficiaries spoke about the substantial improvement solar lanterns had on their daily life while also highlighting that diapers remain one of the most needed items. In Aleppo, monitoring visits were also conducted in Al Mushtatieh and Aghyal Al Kallaseh neighborhoods where Al Ihsan, IHSIA NGO, and For Aleppo Charity had distributed NFIs through SARC. A full analysis of the PDM results will be shared with partners once completed.

- The sub-national working groups are continuously increasing their impact. In June, NFI sector partners in As Sweida gathered and discussed ways to better track operational response, harmonize assessment initiatives, and improve information sharing. Partners are planning to develop a central depository of beneficiaries’ information to avoid duplication.

- An assessment registry was developed to compile all assessment, and monitoring and evaluation related activities conducted inside Syria. This hopes to evaluate the available and missing information pertaining to NFI needs situation.

- A two-day Whole of Syria Coordination Workshop was conducted on 19th to 20th of June in Beirut, Lebanon for sector operational updating and planning. Among the highlights of the workshop include the discussion of the planned needs assessment that would help inform the 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview, the review of severity scales, and winterization planning structures.

NUMBERS IN BRIEF

TOTAL NFI DISTRIBUTED

- 3.1 Million TOTAL AS OF JUNE 2017
- 1.5M CORE NFI
- 1.6M SUPPLEMENTARY NFI

BENEFICIARIES ADEQUATELY SERVED

- 312,907 CORE NFI
- 1.1M NO. OF PEOPLE WHOSE NEEDS IN RELATION TO CORE AND ESSENTIAL NFI ARE MET

- 4.9M SUPPLEMENTARY NFI
- 1.2M NO. OF PEOPLE WHOSE NEEDS ARE MET FOR SEASONAL ASSISTANCE

OVERALL REACHED BENEFICIARIES

- 3,889,020 TOTAL BENEFICIARIES AS OF JUNE 2017 WHO RECEIVED AT LEAST ONE / PART OF NFI
GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- Widespread insecurity, challenging physical access and rigorous bureaucratic procedures and approval limit provision of adequate and regular humanitarian assistance especially to those who live in besieged and hard-to-reach areas;
- Absence of age and gender disaggregated information of population in need unable the sector to accommodate and target specific needs;
- Logistical constraints especially during inter-agency convoy such as road blockage, presence of checkpoints, presence of threats, and proximity to active front lines (i.e. Ar Raqa) continue to hamper rapid distribution;
- Lack of actual data on distribution recipients prevent the sector to better measure the actual reached and served beneficiaries;
- Limited and irregular monitoring of distribution due to insecurity and sensitivities compromise the ability of the sector to assess the impact of its assistance and better inform future planning;
- Absence of clear and effective feedback mechanism from population in need due to information gathering sensitivities unable the sector to better determine the efficacy of its effort;
- Lack of income-generating activities to provide the necessary financial means continues to hamper access to basic household hold items among the most vulnerable population in need;
- Diminishing active participation among sector members affects coordination and the overall sectoral reach;
- Inexact coordination structure impacts the level of efficiency in coordinating sectorial response for interagency convoys.
- Lack of reliable consolidated information for interagency convoy reach affects the sector’s ability to determine the extent and impact of its convoy contribution;
- Insufficient number of detailed and comprehensive assessment makes it difficult for the sector to shift its response priorities from distribution of basic essential NFI items to provision of supplementary items.
- Decreasing number of local NGOs authorized to partner with UN agencies particularly in severely affected areas limit the extent of humanitarian response (i.e. Ar Raqa).
- Lack of adherence to agreed distribution standards (i.e. UNHCR solar lamps) affects the quality of NFI response (i.e. Lal-takia and Mashta’a Al-Helou).

CRISIS BACKGROUND: The crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic that started in March 2011 has transformed into a complex emergency that led to 6.3 million IDPs and 4.8 million Syrian refugees. The 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview reported that around 13.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance of which around 5.8 million people need to receive essential household items and other multi-sectoral assistance as they continue to live in an unsafe and uncertain environment. The degree of resilience and positive coping mechanism of the affected population have gradually reduced due to the protracted nature of the hostilities. Purchasing power and the ability to provide for their basic household needs have decreased due to economic recession that left many people unemployed and the prospect of accessing essential household items has also declined due to closure of essential service providers.

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PARTNER IN FOCUS

Oxfam is an international non-government organization with the mission to create lasting solutions to poverty, hunger, and social injustice. It started its work in Syria in June 2013 responding alongside other agencies to the urgent need for clean water. While they focus on rehabilitating the water infrastructure, they also integrate emergency live-saving support into their programming.

Oxfam started its NFI assistance since 2014 mainly in Al Hassakeh, Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, and Rural Damascus governorates. The NFI assistance includes the distribution of family anti-mosquito net, blankets, floor mats, hygiene kits, jerry cans, and water bottles. They also provide water tanks along with latrines installation. Oxfam’s recent NFI intervention was the emergency response in Aleppo from December 2016 – February 2017 wherein around 348,566 beneficiaries were reached.

As the crisis has escalated in Syria, Oxfam has not only increased their humanitarian work across the region, they have also vigorously campaigned for (1) the rights of all people affected by the crisis and to ensure that their voices are heard, (2) the delivery of a strong humanitarian response in Syria and the wider region, and (3) governments around the world to use their influence to find a political solution to the crisis. Public health promotion, solid waste management, and supporting livelihoods are also part of their interventions.

Oxfam has more than 50 staff who are currently operating in 10 out of 14 governorates in Syria.